

**As a below named inventor, hereby declare that:**

I believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **TROUBLEPROOF PROCESS INPUT AND PROCESS OUTPUT**, for which an application for Letters Patent was filed as PCT Application No. **PCT/DE98/03771** on **December 22, 1998**.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Number	Country	Day/month/year filed	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC §119
198 01 137.7	Fed. Rep. of Germany	14 January 1998	YES

EL59460825545

And I hereby appoint Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490), Gerard A. Messina (Reg. No. 35,952), and Michelle M. Carniaux (Reg. No. 36,098) my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. 3

Please address all communications regarding this application to:

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Please direct all telephone calls to Richard L. Mayer at (212) 425-7200.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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